Federatfons (NSFs), as a whole regarding any shortage of training equipment in general, a few Federations have reported shortage of consumables, for the training of sportspersons. Specific complaints were received from the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), and the Badminton Association of India (BAI), regarding the shortage of ammunition and shuttle cocks, respectively. No complaint has been received, regarding the shortage of equipment in archery.

This matter was duly examined in the Ministry, and the procurement process has been decentralized with effect from December, 2007, by allowing recognized NSFs, to procure consumables on their own, following due procedure, on reimbursement basis. The procurement of consumables as per entitlement under the approved Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs), is therefore, the responsibility of the NSFs concerned.

Sports promotion in hilly areas

2790. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines fixed by Government to promote sports and nurture talents at the block and village level under Panchayat Yuva Khel and Krida Abhiyan particularly in hilly and rural areas;

(b) whether Government would provide financial assistance under this scheme to the village Nandla in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh to promote sports as it is a hilly and remote area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) to (c) The Government have recently approved the Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), which provides for the creation of sports infrastructure at grassroots level in all village panchayats and Block panchayats, including those in the State of Himachal Pradesh in a phased manner over a period of ten years. The scheme also provides financial assistance for organizing sports competitions at village, block and district levels.

Under the Scheme, each Village Panchayat and each Block Panchayat, would be given one time seed capital grant of Rs. 1 lakh, and Rs 5 lakh, respectively. The State contribution in this will be 25% for normal States and 10% for Special Category States. In addition, while village panchayats would be given annual equipment acquisition grant, and annual operational grant of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 12,000 per annum, respectively, block panchayats would be given Rs.20,000 and Rs.24,000, respectively. Each block panchayat, would also be provided annual competition grant of Rs. 50,000, for holding block level competitions, and each district will be provided annual competition grant of Rs. 3 lakh, for holding district level competitions. Further, prize money would also be provided to the winners (first three positions), in block level and district level competitions.

MRI Scan for determining age

2791. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sports institutions in the country organizing sports events have decided to